

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF SALT SPRING ISLAND
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2020, 2:30PM**

NOTE: DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MEETING WAS HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

CALL TO ORDER & OPENING PRAYER

Chair: Gyllian Davies, Incumbent

Secretary: Dale Storm

PRESENT: Dovene Steele (Incumbent's Co-Warden)
Walter Stewart (People's Warden)
Doreen Davidson (Retiring Warden)
Elizabeth Van Akker (Chair, Finance Committee)
Sue Savage (Alternate Synod Delegate)
Anne Clapham
Elaine Hunt
Gloria McEachern
Jim Smith
Joan Dickenson
John Metzger

Absent/Regrets: Judy Tyson (Incumbent's Co-Warden)

Note that the members present make up a quorum (the chair, a churchwarden and one-third of membership [3])

READING & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of 20 AUGUST 2020

MOVED Gloria McEachern

SECONDED Sue Savage

THAT the minutes be approved as circulated. CARRIED.

REPORTS

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter was received from Lyle Eide with sadness regarding he and Susan Eide moving to Victoria.
- Letter from BC Hydro regarding the light on the power pole at the foot of the driveway to St. Mark's. The light was installed by BC Hydro many years ago, and the parish pays for the electricity for the light at a preferential rate. BC Hydro wants to discontinue this arrangement but we want to continue having a light at that location and have therefore accepted BC Hydro's offer to replace the light at no cost with an LED. The parish will continue to pay for the electricity for the light. Nothing will happen until 2022 as this new arrangement needs to be approved by the BC Utilities Commission.
- Letter was received by all incumbents of the diocese regarding "Going Green" and, in particular, the elimination of single-use plastics. A brochure for each member of Parish Council was enclosed with the letter.

ACTION: DALE STORM WILL SEND A BROCHURE TO EACH MEMBER OF PARISH COUNCIL SO THAT A DISCUSSION CAN TAKE PLACE AT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

FINANCE

Update – Walter Stewart

- The Profit & Loss figures for January to August 2020 show that the parish has a deficit of approximately \$39,000 in net income compared to approximately \$33,000 for the same period last year. Total income is down by almost \$21,000 compared to the same period last year, mostly due to the decrease in hall use donations (only approximately \$8,500 received so far this year compared to almost \$20,000 for the same period last year). However, starting in September 2020, hall use donations will increase as more hall users are returning to All Saints. A submission of Country Grocer tapes has also been made, the first of the year, so a payment should be coming soon. Total expenses continue to be down by almost \$14,000.
- It was stated at the August meeting that the wage subsidy of \$10,661 did not include an amount for June 2020 due to the diocese's income as a whole being too high to qualify. In fact, the June amount has not yet been received due to the change in the application process, which now must be prepared at the parish level. Therefore, the parish can expect to receive another wage subsidy of \$6,000-10,000.
- It was noted that the parish is usually in a deficit until quite late in the year and is able to “borrow” from itself when necessary. The parish has approximately \$90,000 in the capital replacement fund and \$100,000 in trust at the diocese (as part of the \$300,000 Cree Shaw Fund) that it can borrow from when necessary. These amounts are quite significant so there isn't much danger of exceeding what is available to be used.
- No objections were raised regarding the memo that was prepared by the Finance Committee to update the parish on the current financial position of the parish.

ACTION: DALE STORM WILL EMAIL THE MEMO FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO ALL PARISHIONERS.

BUILDING AND LANDS

ST MARK'S & ST MARY'S

Update – Walter Stewart

- Both buildings are being inspected from time to time and will be “winterized” soon.

CEMETERIES

Report from Cemeteries Committee – Dovene Steele

- The Cemeteries Committee met on Friday, September 4, to discuss the issue of whether the parish should limit the amount of cemetery plots that one family or group is allowed to buy at one time. This issue came about because of the recent purchase of 22 plots at one time by a family that used to live on Salt Spring Island. The Committee discussed whether there should be a connection to the island to buy that many plots at once and whether there might eventually not be enough plots for parishioners or residents. After much discussion by the Committee, it was decided that it is too difficult to enforce such a restrictive policy, and that if the same situation were to arise in the future, that the Cemeteries Manager should contact Parish Council for guidance.
- The issue of plots possibly being less expensive than other nearby cemeteries was also discussed by the Committee. It was pointed out that our burial rates increased recently due to us using James Leslie for grounds maintenance.

ACTION: DALE STORM TO LOOK INTO THE COST OF PLOTS AT NEARBY CHURCH CEMETERIES.

- A discussion took place by Parish Council regarding exactly how many plots are available at Purdy Cunningham (many), St Mark's (not very many) and St Mary's (not very many). It was confirmed that you don't need to be an Anglican or a church person to be buried at any of those cemeteries. The nearby non-church-owned Central Cemetery is getting full and the possibility of transferring the responsibility of Purdy Cunningham to Central Cemetery was mentioned.
- Noted that the Cemetery Account financials be included in the financial statements prepared for Parish Council so that the sustainability of maintaining the cemeteries can be monitored.
- There is still some damage from the storm of 2018 that needs to be cleaned up. In addition, about 20 trees at St Mark's need to be cut down. Doreen Davidson and Terri Manuck will meet with Allan Cunningham to discuss this.
- There is an increasing interest in "eco-friendly" burials and a Cemeteries Subcommittee was formed to look into a proposal to designate an area at Purdy Cunningham cemetery for this type of burial. The members of this Subcommittee are Terri Manuck, Doreen Davidson, Ron Dyck and Dovenne Steele.
- The Islands Pathways information plaque has now been put up inside the fence at St Mark's cemetery.
- There are ongoing issues with the property line on the east side of St Mark's cemetery where a few graves are over the property line and infringing on the property of Markus Wenzel. Negotiations are underway with Mr Wenzel to clear up the issue so that a fence can be erected. There is a proposal that Mr Wenzel donate the strip of land that the graves are on and, in turn, the church give Mr Wenzel a strip of land on the forested side of the church property. The diocese will pay for the survey that will need to be done.
- After some discussion on the issue of people wanting to plant things on their loved ones' plots, it was decided by the Committee that this would be difficult to allow.
- The Committee will meet again in a few months.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

M&O Report – Elaine Hunt

- The M&O Committee passed a resolution to end the Smile Card program at the recommendation of Colin Ward.
- The new Laundromat in Ganges (to be operated by the Wagon Wheel Housing Society) now has enough funds to start renovations. The planned opening date is November or December 1, 2020.
- A donation of \$500 will be sent to the Northside Community Church in Zimbabwe for their pantry program.
- Next meeting of the M&O Committee will be on October 8, 2020.

PARISH LIFE & GROWTH

Report from Incumbent – Gyllian Davies

- In-person Eucharist and online services continue with stable numbers: average of 15 for in-person and 69 views for online. Continue to receive very positive feedback for e-services. Will eventually be livestreaming the in-person services (for people who prefer to worship that way or out of

necessity), so need to figure out how to do that, including how to create some form of closed captions during the livestream, as they have proved to be very valuable to one-third of online worshippers.

- Ministerial: Only had a short meeting due to other commitments by participants. Only the Baptist Church and Gospel Chapel were able to attend. There is a spectrum of responses to COVID-19. For example, the Gospel Chapel has a very sophisticated form of livestreaming that permits people to chat with each other and discuss the sermon while it is in process. Some limited forms of study groups are taking place in person.
- Five user groups are resuming activities at All Saints and one is in the process of resuming. They are the following: Barre, Taiji (single person), Painting, an exercise group, and Belly dance. Gyllian Davies has been meeting each user group to go over their COVID safety protocols, including separate entry and exit doors, appropriate spacing, etc. The groups are happy to be able to return to the building and will do everything they can to keep everyone safe. In the coming winter months, ventilation in the church will need to be looked because it will be too cold to keep the doors open.
- Reminder that Gyllian Davies is off on Mondays and Tuesday.

Star of the Sea – Online Events

- Online events will be starting up again next week via Zoom. Impossible to hold in-person events at St Mary’s because only seven people would be able to be in the church at once with social distancing. Brian Day will start with a poetry night on Tuesday, September 22, and the Soul Collage with Gyllian Davies on Saturday, October 3.

DIOCESAN LIFE

Update on Episcopal Succession – Walter Stewart

- The e-election for the new bishop will be next Saturday, September 26. The candidate profiles are on the diocese website. Four candidates are from the Diocese of BC, and one candidate each from the Diocese of New Westminster, Calgary and England.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

Meeting ended with the Grace at 4:00PM.

Next Parish Council meeting – Thu 15 October 2020, 2:30PM by Zoom video conference.

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These minutes were approved by Parish Council at a subsequent meeting:

Judy Tyson,
Incumbent’s Co-Warden

Dovene Steele,
Incumbent’s Co-Warden

Walter Stewart,
People’s Warden